



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196  
401-222-2080

**Donald L. Carcieri**  
Governor

May 7, 2010

The Honorable Patrick C. Lynch  
Attorney General  
150 South Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

Among the provisions of the recently enacted federal health care legislation is one which forces the citizens of Rhode Island to purchase health insurance and the state itself to form and participate in insurance exchanges; failure to comply can result in substantial fines.

I call upon your office to exercise its discretion to protect our citizens from this unnecessary and probably unconstitutional intrusion of the federal government into the lives of Rhode Islanders whose freedoms to make their own choices about health care should be preserved and protected. Our state rejected the over-reaching hand of the British government when it declared its independence in 1776, and the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution makes it clear that there are limits to federal powers and places where only the State and their citizens have authority to act. In my opinion, the health care legislation will raise the costs of health care for Rhode Islanders, lower the quality of care, and shift another unfunded mandate on a state already overburdened with budget deficits. With its backroom deals, special kickbacks, and lack of transparency, federal health care legislation represents a deplorable abuse of the legislative process.

Some 14 states attorneys generals led by Florida's Bill McCollum have filed a complaint in the federal district court challenging the constitutionality of this new law as a violation

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of the equal protection and commerce clauses, the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment, and other U.S. Constitutional provisions. I ask you to consider joining their effort on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor